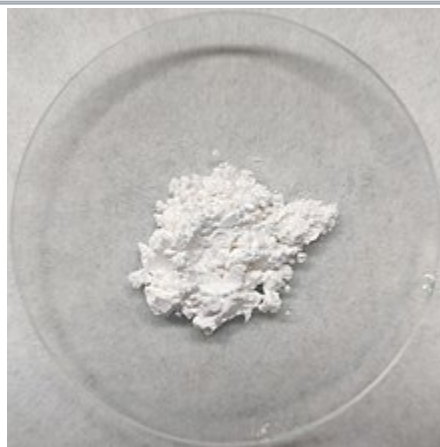
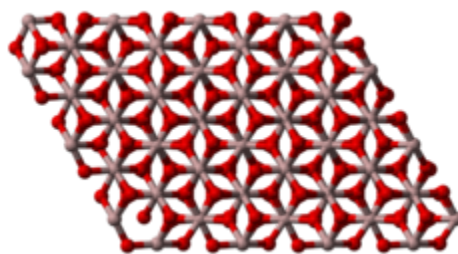


Aluminium oxide

Aluminium oxide is a [chemical compound](#) of [aluminium](#) and [oxygen](#) with the [chemical formula](#) Al_2O_3 . It is the most commonly occurring of several [aluminium oxides](#), and specifically identified as **aluminium(III) oxide**. It is commonly called **alumina** and may also be called **aloxide**, **aloxite**, or **alundum** depending on particular forms or applications. It occurs naturally in its crystalline [polymorphic phase](#) $\alpha\text{-Al}_2\text{O}_3$ as the [mineral corundum](#), varieties of which form the precious [gemstones ruby](#) and [sapphire](#). Al_2O_3 is significant in its use to produce aluminium metal, as an [abrasive](#) owing to its [hardness](#), and as a [refractory](#) material owing to its high melting point.^[7]


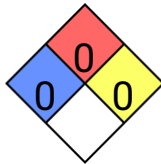
Aluminium oxide
(Aluminum oxide)



Identifiers

CAS Number	1344-28-1 (https://commonchemistry.cas.org/detail?cas_rn=1344-28-1) ✓
3D model (JSmol)	<p>Interactive image (https://chemapps.stolaf.edu/jmol/jmol.php?model=%5BAI%2B3%5D.%5BAI%2B3%5D.%5BO-2%5D.%5BO-2%5D.%5BO-2%5D)</p> <p>Interactive image (https://chemapps.stolaf.edu/jmol/jmol.php?model=%5BO-2%5D.%5BO-2%5D.%5BO-2%5D.%5BAI%2B3%5D.%5BAI%2B3%5D)</p>
ChEMBL	ChEMBL3707210 (https://www.ebi.ac.uk/chembl/db/index.php/compound/inspect/ChEMBL3707210)
ChemSpider	8164808 (https://www.chemspider.com/Chemical-Structure.8164808.html) ✓
DrugBank	DB11342 (https://www.drugbank.ca/drugs/DB11342)
ECHA InfoCard	100.014.265 (https://echa.europa.eu/substance-i)

EC Number	information/-/substanceinfo/100.014.265) 215-691-6
PubChem CID	9989226 (https://pubchem.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/compound/9989226)
RTECS number	BD120000
UNII	LMI26O6933 (https://fdasis.nlm.nih.gov/srs/srsdirect.jsp?regno=LMI26O6933) ✓
CompTox Dashboard (EPA)	DTXSID1052791 (https://comptox.epa.gov/dashboard/chemical/details/DTXSID1052791)
InChI InChI=1S/2Al.3O/q2*+3;3*-2 ✓ Key: PNEYBMLMFCGWSK-UHFFFAOYSA-N ✓ InChI=1/2Al.3O/q2*+3;3*-2 Key: PNEYBMLMFCGWSK-UHFFFAOYAC	
SMILES [Al+3].[Al+3].[O-2].[O-2].[O-2] [O-2].[O-2].[O-2].[Al+3].[Al+3]	
Properties	
Chemical formula	Al ₂ O ₃
Molar mass	101.960 g·mol ⁻¹
Appearance	white solid
Odor	odorless
Density	3.987g/cm ³
Melting point	2,072 °C (3,762 °F; 2,345 K) ^[3]
Boiling point	2,977 °C (5,391 °F; 3,250 K) ^[4]
Solubility in water	insoluble
Solubility	insoluble in all solvents
log P	0.31860 ^[1]
Magnetic susceptibility (χ)	−37.0×10 ^{−6} cm ³ /mol

Thermal conductivity	30 W·m ⁻¹ ·K ⁻¹ ^[2]
Refractive index (n_D)	n_ω =1.768–1.772 n_ϵ =1.760–1.763 Birefringence 0.008
Structure	
Crystal structure	Trigonal, hR30
Space group	R $\bar{3}$ c (No. 167)
Lattice constant	a = 478.5 pm, c = 1299.1 pm
Coordination geometry	octahedral
Thermochemistry	
Std molar entropy (S^\ominus_{298})	50.92 J·mol ⁻¹ ·K ⁻¹ ^[5]
Std enthalpy of formation ($\Delta_f H^\ominus_{298}$)	-1675.7 kJ/mol ^[5]
Pharmacology	
ATC code	D10AX04 (WHO (https://www.whocc.no/atc_ddd_index/?code=D10AX04))
Hazards	
GHS labelling:	
Pictograms	
NFPA 704 (fire diamond)	
Flash point	Non-flammable
NIOSH (US health exposure limits):	
PEL (Permissible)	OSHA 15 mg/m ³ (Total Dust) OSHA 5 mg/m ³ (Respirable Fraction)

	ACGIH/TLV 10 mg/m ³
REL (Recommended)	none ^[6]
IDLH (Immediate danger)	N.D. ^[6]
Related compounds	
Other anions	aluminium hydroxide aluminium sulfide aluminium selenide
Other cations	boron trioxide gallium oxide indium oxide thallium(III) oxide
Supplementary data page	
Aluminium oxide (data page)	
<p>Except where otherwise noted, data are given for materials in their standard state (at 25 °C [77 °F], 100 kPa).</p> <p>✓ verify (https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Special:ComparePages&rev1=477315085&page2=Aluminium+oxide) (what is ✓✗?)</p> <p>Infobox references</p>	

Natural occurrence

[Corundum](#) is the most common naturally occurring [crystalline](#) form of aluminium oxide.^[8] [Rubies](#) and [sapphires](#) are gem-quality forms of corundum, which owe their characteristic colours to trace impurities. Rubies are given their characteristic deep red colour and their [laser](#) qualities by traces of [chromium](#). Sapphires come in different colours given by various other impurities, such as iron and titanium. An extremely rare, δ form, occurs as the mineral deltalumite.^{[9][10]}

Properties



Aluminium oxide in its powdered form

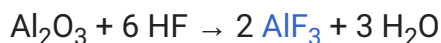
Al_2O_3 is an [electrical insulator](#) but has a relatively high [thermal conductivity](#) ($30 \text{ Wm}^{-1}\text{K}^{-1}$)^[2] for a ceramic material. Aluminium oxide is insoluble in water. In its most commonly occurring crystalline form, called [corundum](#) or α -aluminium oxide, its hardness makes it suitable for use as an [abrasive](#) and as a component in [cutting tools](#).^[7]

Aluminium oxide is responsible for the resistance of metallic aluminium to [weathering](#). Metallic aluminium is very reactive with atmospheric oxygen, and a thin [passivation layer](#) of aluminium oxide (4 nm thickness) forms on any exposed aluminium surface in a matter of hundreds of picoseconds.^[11] This layer protects the metal from further oxidation. The thickness and properties of this oxide layer can be enhanced using a process called [anodising](#). A number of [alloys](#), such as [aluminium bronzes](#), exploit this property by including a proportion of aluminium in the alloy to enhance corrosion resistance. The aluminium oxide generated by anodising is typically [amorphous](#), but discharge assisted oxidation processes such as [plasma electrolytic oxidation](#) result in a significant proportion of crystalline aluminium oxide in the coating, enhancing its [hardness](#).

Aluminium oxide was taken off the [United States Environmental Protection Agency's](#) chemicals lists in 1988. Aluminium oxide is on the EPA's [Toxics Release Inventory](#) list if it is a fibrous form.^[12]

Amphoteric nature

Aluminium oxide is an [amphoteric](#) substance, meaning it can react with both [acids](#) and [bases](#), such as [hydrofluoric acid](#) and [sodium hydroxide](#), acting as an acid with a base and a base with an acid, neutralising the other and producing a salt.



Structure



Corundum from [Brazil](#), size about 2×3 cm.

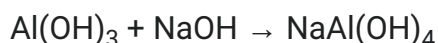
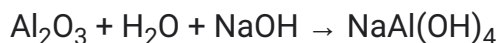
The most common form of crystalline aluminium oxide is known as [corundum](#), which is the thermodynamically stable form.^[13] The oxygen ions form a nearly [hexagonal close-packed](#) structure with the aluminium ions filling two-thirds of the octahedral interstices. Each Al^{3+} center is [octahedral](#). In terms of its [crystallography](#), corundum adopts a [trigonal Bravais lattice](#) with a [space group](#) of $R\bar{3}c$ (number 167 in the International Tables). The [primitive cell](#) contains two formula units of aluminium oxide.

Aluminium oxide also exists in other metastable phases, including the cubic γ and η phases, the monoclinic θ phase, the hexagonal χ phase, the orthorhombic κ phase and the δ phase that can be tetragonal or orthorhombic.^{[13][14]} Each has a unique crystal structure and properties. Cubic γ - Al_2O_3 has important technical applications. The so-called β - Al_2O_3 proved to be $\text{NaAl}_{11}\text{O}_{17}$.^[15]

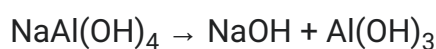
Molten aluminium oxide near the melting temperature is roughly 2/3 [tetrahedral](#) (i.e. 2/3 of the Al are surrounded by 4 oxygen neighbors), and 1/3 5-coordinated, with very little (<5%) [octahedral](#) Al-O present.^[16] Around 80% of the oxygen atoms are shared among three or more Al-O polyhedra, and the majority of inter-polyhedral connections are corner-sharing, with the remaining 10–20% being edge-sharing.^[16] The breakdown of octahedra upon melting is accompanied by a relatively large volume increase (~33%), the density of the liquid close to its melting point is 2.93 g/cm^3 .^[17] The structure of molten alumina is temperature dependent and the fraction of 5- and 6-fold aluminium increases during cooling (and supercooling), at the expense of tetrahedral AlO_4 units, approaching the local structural arrangements found in amorphous alumina.^[18]

Production

Aluminium [hydroxide](#) minerals are the main component of [bauxite](#), the principal [ore](#) of [aluminium](#). A mixture of the minerals comprise bauxite ore, including [gibbsite](#) ($\text{Al}(\text{OH})_3$), [boehmite](#) ($\gamma\text{-AlO}(\text{OH})$), and [diaspore](#) ($\alpha\text{-AlO}(\text{OH})$), along with impurities of [iron oxides](#) and hydroxides, quartz and [clay minerals](#).^[19] Bauxites are found in [laterites](#). Bauxite is typically purified using the [Bayer process](#):



Except for SiO_2 , the other components of bauxite do not dissolve in base. Upon filtering the basic mixture, Fe_2O_3 is removed. When the Bayer liquor is cooled, $\text{Al}(\text{OH})_3$ precipitates, leaving the silicates in solution.



The solid $\text{Al}(\text{OH})_3$ [Gibbsite](#) is then [calcined](#) (heated to over 1100 °C) to give aluminium oxide:^[7]



The product aluminium oxide tends to be multi-phase, i.e., consisting of several phases of aluminium oxide rather than solely [corundum](#).^[14] The production process can therefore be optimized to produce a tailored product. The type of phases present affects, for example, the solubility and pore structure of the aluminium oxide product which, in turn, affects the cost of aluminium production and pollution control.^[14]

Applications

Known as alpha alumina in [materials science](#) communities or alundum (in fused form) or aloxite^[20] in the [mining](#) and [ceramic](#) communities aluminium oxide finds wide use. Annual world production of aluminium oxide in 2015 was approximately 115 million [tonnes](#), over 90% of which is used in the manufacture of aluminium metal.^[7] The major uses of speciality aluminium oxides are in refractories, ceramics, polishing and abrasive applications. Large tonnages of aluminium hydroxide, from which alumina is derived, are used in the manufacture of [zeolites](#), coating [titania](#) pigments, and as a fire retardant/smoke suppressant.

Over 90% of the aluminium oxide, normally termed Smelter Grade Alumina (SGA), produced is consumed for the production of aluminium, usually by the [Hall–Héroult process](#). The remainder, normally called speciality alumina is used in a wide variety of applications which reflect its inertness, temperature resistance and electrical resistance.^[21]

Fillers

Being fairly chemically inert and white, aluminium oxide is a favored filler for plastics. Aluminium oxide is a common ingredient in [sunscreen](#) and is sometimes also present in cosmetics such as blush, lipstick, and nail polish.

Glass

Many formulations of [glass](#) have aluminium oxide as an ingredient.^[22] Aluminosilicate glass is a commonly used type of glass that often contains 5% to 10% alumina.

Catalysis

Aluminium oxide catalyses a variety of reactions that are useful industrially. In its largest scale application, aluminium oxide is the catalyst in the [Claus process](#) for converting hydrogen sulfide waste gases into elemental sulfur in refineries. It is also useful for dehydration of [alcohols](#) to alkenes.

Aluminium oxide serves as a [catalyst support](#) for many industrial catalysts, such as those used in [hydrodesulfurization](#) and some [Ziegler–Natta](#) polymerizations.

Gas purification

Aluminium oxide is widely used to remove water from gas streams.^[23]

Abrasive

Aluminium oxide is used for its hardness and strength. Its naturally occurring form, [corundum](#), is a 9 on the [Mohs scale of mineral hardness](#) (just below diamond). It is widely used as an [abrasive](#), including as a much less expensive substitute for [industrial diamond](#). Many types of [sandpaper](#) use aluminium oxide crystals. In addition, its low heat retention and low [specific heat](#) make it widely used in grinding operations, particularly [cutoff](#) tools. As the powdery abrasive mineral [aloxite](#), it is a major component, along with [silica](#), of the [cue tip](#) "chalk" used in [billiards](#). Aluminium oxide powder is used in some [CD/DVD polishing](#) and scratch-repair kits. Its polishing qualities are also behind its use in toothpaste. It is also used in [microdermabrasion](#), both in the

machine process available through dermatologists and estheticians, and as a manual dermal abrasive used according to manufacturer directions.

Paint

Aluminium oxide flakes are used in paint for reflective decorative effects, such as in the automotive or cosmetic industries.

Composite fiber

Aluminium oxide has been used in a few experimental and commercial fiber materials for high-performance applications (e.g., Fiber FP, Nextel 610, Nextel 720).^[24] Alumina [nanofibers](#) in particular have become a research field of interest.

Body armor

Some body armors utilize alumina ceramic plates, usually in combination with aramid or UHMWPE backing to achieve effectiveness against most rifle threats. Alumina ceramic armor is readily available to most civilians in jurisdictions where it is legal, but is not considered military grade.^[25]

Abrasion protection

Aluminium oxide can be grown as a coating on aluminium by [anodizing](#) or by [plasma electrolytic oxidation](#) (see the "Properties" above). Both the [hardness](#) and abrasion-resistant characteristics of the coating originate from the high strength of aluminium oxide, yet the porous coating layer produced with conventional direct current anodizing procedures is within a 60–70 Rockwell hardness C range^[26] which is comparable only to hardened carbon steel alloys, but considerably inferior to the hardness of natural and synthetic corundum. Instead, with [plasma electrolytic oxidation](#), the coating is porous only on the surface oxide layer while the lower oxide layers are much more compact than with standard DC anodizing procedures and present a higher crystallinity due to the oxide layers being remelted and densified to obtain α -Al₂O₃ clusters with much higher coating hardness values circa 2000 Vickers hardness.



Aluminium oxide output in 2005

Alumina is used to manufacture tiles which are attached inside pulverized fuel lines and flue gas ducting on coal fired power stations to protect high wear areas. They are not suitable for areas with high impact forces as these tiles are brittle and susceptible to breakage.

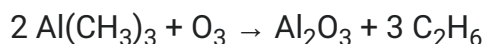
Electrical insulation

Aluminium oxide is an electrical [insulator](#) used as a substrate ([silicon on sapphire](#)) for [integrated circuits](#) but also as a [tunnel barrier](#) for the fabrication of [superconducting](#) devices such as [single-electron transistors](#) and superconducting quantum interference devices ([SQUIDs](#)).

For its application as an electrical insulator in integrated circuits, where the conformal growth of a thin film is a prerequisite and the preferred growth mode is [atomic layer deposition](#), Al_2O_3 films can be prepared by the chemical exchange between [trimethylaluminum](#) ($\text{Al}(\text{CH}_3)_3$) and H_2O :^[27]



H_2O in the above reaction can be replaced by [ozone](#) (O_3) as the active oxidant and the following reaction then takes place:^{[28][29]}



The Al_2O_3 films prepared using O_3 show 10–100 times lower leakage current density compared with those prepared by H_2O .

Aluminium oxide, being a dielectric with relatively large [band gap](#), is used as an insulating barrier in [capacitors](#).^[30]

Other

In lighting, translucent aluminium oxide is used in some [sodium vapor lamps](#).^[31] Aluminium oxide is also used in preparation of coating suspensions in [compact fluorescent lamps](#).

In chemistry laboratories, aluminium oxide is a medium for [chromatography](#), available in [basic](#) (pH 9.5), [acidic](#) (pH 4.5 when in water) and neutral formulations.

Health and medical applications include it as a material in [hip replacements](#)^[7] and [birth control pills](#).^[32]

It is used as a [scintillator](#)^[33] and [dosimeter](#) for radiation protection and therapy applications for its [optically stimulated luminescence](#) properties.

Insulation for high-temperature furnaces is often manufactured from aluminium oxide. Sometimes the insulation has varying percentages of silica depending on the temperature rating of the material. The insulation can be made in blanket, board, brick and loose fiber forms for various application requirements.

Small pieces of aluminium oxide are often used as [boiling chips](#) in chemistry.

It is also used to make [spark plug insulators](#).^[34]

Using a [plasma spray](#) process and mixed with [titania](#), it is coated onto the braking surface of some [bicycle](#) rims to provide abrasion and wear resistance.

Most ceramic eyes on fishing rods are circular rings made from aluminium oxide.

In its finest powdered (white) form, called [Diamantine](#), aluminium oxide is used as a superior polishing abrasive in watchmaking and clockmaking.^[35]

Aluminium oxide is also used in the coating of stanchions in the motorcross and mountainbike industry. This coating is combined with molybdenumdisulfate to provide long term lubrication of the surface.^[36]

See also

- [Aluminium oxide nanoparticle](#)
- [Bauxite tailings](#)
- [Beta-alumina solid electrolyte](#), a fast ion conductor
- [Charged Aerosol Release Experiment](#) (CARE)
- [List of alumina refineries](#)
- [Micro-Pulling-Down](#)

- Transparent alumina

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